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United States Patent [19]

Sellers

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[54] ELECTRONIC DEVICE KEYBOARD WITH PIVOT BAR TILT MECHANISM

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Related U.S. Application Data

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[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **G06F 1/16; B41J 11/56; H05K 5/02**

[52] U.S. Cl. **361/680; 400/682**

[58] Field of Search 364/708.1; 345/168, 345/169; 400/472, 479, 488-492, 682, 691-693; 200/5 A; 361/680, 683; 248/918

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[57] ABSTRACT

A keyboard structure is supported on the top side of a base housing portion of an electronic device, representatively a compact portable computer such as a notebook or laptop computer. When the lid portion of the computer is opened, the keyboard is in a storage/transport orientation in which it is generally parallel to the bottom wall of the base housing. With the lid portion opened, and the computer resting on a horizontal support surface, the keyboard may be used in this storage/transport orientation. The keyboard is supported on the base housing by a pair of elongated pivot rods that also permit the keyboard to be translated forwardly relative to the base housing and be downwardly pivoted to a forwardly and downwardly sloped tilted use orientation in which the keyboard is disposed generally forwardly of the base housing, with a lower front edge portion of the keyboard positioned forwardly of the front side of the base housing and downwardly engaging the support surface upon which the computer rests. In this manner, the notebook computer keyboard is disposed at an angle and elevation emulating the use orientation of a separate, larger desktop computer keyboard. When it is desired to transport the notebook computer to a different location, its forwardly and downwardly tilted keyboard is upwardly tilted and rearwardly returned to its storage/transport orientation to permit closure of the computer lid housing portion.

12 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

